

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/964,117

Examiner

Matthew J. Sked

Applicant(s)

PACKINGHAM ET AL.

Art Unit

2655

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 06/15/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 3-13.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 26 September 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

W. R. YOUNG
PRIMARY EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments, filed 6/15/05, with respect to claims 3 and 9 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of 3-13 has been withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 3-13 are allowed.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Independent claims 3 and 9 state the combination of a voice command system comprising: an interface for communicating with users over a telecommunications network, and a processor that; processes voice command applications that define the allowed grammars and logic, processes speech input at the user interface to recognize alias grammars, converts the alias grammar to an actual grammar as an allowed grammar defined by the application, wherein the correlations between the alias grammars and actual grammars are predefined and wherein the processor uses at least a subset of the predefined set of correlations independent of the current user and substantially regardless of which voice command application the processor is processing.

4. Alshawi (U.S. Pat. Pub. 2002/0072914A1) teaches a voice command system comprising:

a user communication interface for communication with users via a telecommunications network (computer telephony platform, paragraph 26);

a processor (Fig. 2, element 203);

an application-processing module executable by the processor to process voice command applications (Fig. 1, element 115), the voice command applications defining allowed grammars and application logic (context database contains a set of exemplar action specifications for each application program, paragraph 37);

a voice processing module executable by the processor to recognize grammars in speech signals received from a user via the user communication interface (recognizer, Fig. 1, element 106 and paragraph 30);

aliasing-logic executable by the processor, upon recognition of an alias grammar in a speech signal received from the user, to convert the alias grammar to an actual grammar, and to recognize the actual grammar as an allowed grammar defined by a voice command application (variation matcher matches the recognized word from the variant database with its corresponding exemplar and from there executes the application action, paragraph 32);

wherein the aliasing-logic uses a predefined set of correlations between alias grammars and actual grammars to convert between an alias grammar and an actual grammar (variant command file contains each exemplar for the context and all corresponding variants, paragraph 34); and

wherein the processor uses at least a subset of the predefined set of correlations regardless of the user who is communicating with the voice command system (variants present in database for all users, paragraph 78).

Alshawhi does not teach the processor uses at least a subset of the predefined set of correlations substantially regardless of which voice command application the processor is processing.

Denenberg et al. (U.S. Pat. Pub. 2002/0087328A1) teaches an interactive voice response system that uses both a global grammar as well as an application independent user-grammar.

It would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the system of Alshawhi so the processor uses at least a subset of the predefined set of correlations substantially regardless of which voice command application the processor is processing as taught by Denenberg.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Dantzig (U.S. Pat. Pub. 2002/0071833A1) teaches a voice command system that uses both a global grammar and a dynamic user grammar.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Matthew J. Sked whose telephone number is (571) 272-7627. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri (8:00 am - 4:30 pm).

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wayne Young can be reached on 571-272-7582. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

MS
08/22/05



W. R. YOUNG
PRIMARY EXAMINER